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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Doak et al.
Serial No.: 09/516,257
Filed: February 29, 2000
Group Art Unit: 2877
For: Multi-Grade Object Sorting System And Method
Attorney's Docket No. N4699
Customer No. 23456

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

To the Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

The following comments are submitted in response to the non-Final Office Action dated May 6, 2003. Reconsideration in view of this response is requested.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Small Entity Status

Applicant's previous filings have been based upon large entity status, but in view of changes in Applicant's corporate structure, Applicant now claims small entity status.

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Request for Extension of Time

Applicant hereby requests a two-month extension of time retroactively to respond to the Office Action of May 6 to and including October 6, 2003.

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Applicant's check in the amount of \$210.00 for a two-month extension of time as a small entity is submitted herewith. Any other fees which are due in connection with this response may be charged to Deposit Account No. 23-0035.

Revised Response to Restriction Requirement

In further reviewing the application in response to this Office Action, Applicant's attorney has realized that there are several claims which were not considered but which are in fact readable upon the elected species. Those include claims 4, 5, 7, 17 and 18. When Applicant's attorney originally responded to the restriction requirement, Applicant merely listed the claims as the Examiner has designated them as corresponding to the various species. Upon review, however, it was determined that several of the Examiner's designations were incorrect and accordingly those designations adopted by Applicant's attorney were also incorrect. Each of the claims in question is addressed below and it is pointed out how it is readable on the elected species. The Examiner is respectfully requested to also consider these claims in the next Office Action.

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ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

This attorney is located in our Nashville office and may be contacted at:

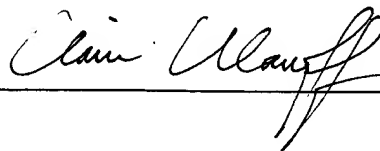
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CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAILING

I hereby certify that this Response to Office Action is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop Fee Amendment
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on 10 - 3 - 03.



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Date